Rural Housing Development Policy

2031. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce rural housing development policy to pro vide houses to homeless people of rural areas:

(b) what are the funds allocated for rural housing development during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) what is the criteria of allotment of land to homeless people to build house?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Houses are being provided free of cost to the rural poor, belonging to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe and also released bonded labourers under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) which is a sub scheme of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Rural Housing to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for providing housing facilities in rural areas is under consideration of the Government.

(b) In addition to the allocations under JAY, an amount of Rs. 350,00 crores has been provided for rural housing during Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) the scheme of allotment of house-sities was initiated in October, 1971 in the Central Sector with a view to providing house-sites to landiess rural agricultural workers, free of cost. The scheme was transferred to the State Sector with effect from April, 1974 and became part of the Minimum Needs Programme. It was later on made a part of the 20-Point Programme and the scope of the scheme was further widened to cover all the rural artisans also.

Plan for Wastelands Development

2032. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any plan from the former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission on wasteland development;

(b) what is reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government would propose to institute a Committee of Social/non-political experts to bring about the deve lopments in wasteland?

IHE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT): (COL. RAO RAM SINGH); (a) No plain for wastelands development has been received from. Shri Mohan Dharia, former Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. However, a letter was received by the Government dated 30th October, 1992 from Shi Mohan Dharia which had a note entitles "Land-Water Use and Wastelands Development in India" prepared in connection with the proposed National Convention on 'Land-Water Use and Wastelands Development in the Country*.

(b) the note of Shri Mohan Dharia was examined in detail: On certaivi issues action is already being taken for example, on suggestion regarding steps to be taken to remove restrictions on cutting of trees on private lands or the role wastelands development can play in generation of rural employment. The suggestion regarding need for preparation of data base for wastelands development and need for preparation of master plan for wastelands development are also under implementation at various departments of the Government. Some suggestions are being incorporated in the new schemes of the Department of Wastelands development like need for soil and water conservation, in volvement of various Government departments for bringing their land under per-